

REMARKS

In this response, Claims 4-7 are amended, Claims 1-3 and 8-19 are canceled and Claims 20-23 are added. Accordingly, Claims 4-7 and 20-23 are pending.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,763,154 to Iguchi et al. ("Iguchi"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant first notes that, to anticipate a claim, every element of the claim must be disclosed within a single reference. Thus, if even one feature of Claims 4 and/or 5 is not found in Iguchi, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 4 and/or 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iguchi be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that a problem addressed by an embodiment of the present invention is that "the AF control unit is provided on the side of the remote control unit 400, which enables remote operations of the lens unit 100 simply by replacing the lens unit 100 with an AF control device. This allows switching between AF or MF of the focus lens 106 despite the non-availability of pins in the electric interface between the remote control unit and the optical device." (see paragraphs [0014], [0015] and [0016] of the original specification).

In order to solve the above problem, an embodiment of the present invention has the feature claimed in the amended claim 4 that "output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means" and the feature claimed in the amended claim 5 that "output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote command generating means". This enables an arrangement wherein a switching means for switching between whether to drive the focus lens with AF control or with MF control to be provided to a lens unit of a remote system with AF control even though there are no available pins in the electric interface between the remote control unit and the optical device, thereby making the remote system more useful. (see paragraph [0022] of the original specification).

With respect to independent Claim 4, Applicant respectfully submits that Iguchi neither teaches nor suggests all limitations of this claim. Particularly, Applicant

respectfully submits that Iguchi fails to teach or suggest the feature claimed in Claim 4 that “output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means.”

In rejecting original Claim 4 as being anticipated by Iguchi, the Examiner equates CPU 143 of Iguchi, shown in figure 10, as the first switching signal input means recited in Claim 4. And, the Examiner equates the manual range setting unit 162 of Iguchi, shown in figure 10, as the second switching signal input means recited in Claim 4. In this regard, the Examiner alleges that Iguchi discloses, as shown in figure 10, the output signals from said first switching signal input means (CPU 143) are in effect multiplexed with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means (manual range setting unit 162). However, Iguchi does not disclose multiplexing the output signals generated from the manual range setting unit 162, much less multiplexing the output signals generated from the manual range setting unit 162 with output signals from the first switching signal input means (AF/MF switching signals generated from the switch 158). Rather, it appears that in Iguchi the output signals generated from the manual range setting unit 162 is input directly into the motor driver circuit 163 to manually rotate the motor 161. Thus, Iguchi does not teach or suggest multiplexing output signals generated from the manual range setting unit 162 with output signals from the first switching signal input means as recited in amended Claim 4. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that equating the manual range setting unit 162 of Iguchi as the second switching signal input means of Claim 4 is improper. The manual range setting unit 162 of Iguchi is not configured to control the focus lens by switching between speed control and positional control of the focus lens as set forth in Claim 4. Instead, the manual range setting unit 162 of Iguchi is manually operable to generate a signal for rotating the motor 161. The generating of a signal for rotating the motor 161 is not equal to controlling the focus lens by switching between speed control and positional control of the focus lens as recited in amended Claim 4. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 4 is not anticipated by Iguchi and requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 4.

With respect to independent Claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that Iguchi neither teaches nor suggests all limitations of this claim. Particularly, Applicant respectfully submits that Iguchi fails to teach or suggest the feature claimed in Claim 5 that “output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote command generating means.” In rejecting original Claim 5 as being anticipated by Iguchi, the Examiner

equates the manual range setting unit 162 of Iguchi, shown in figure 10, as the first remote command generating means set forth in Claim 5. In this regard, the Examiner alleges that Iguchi discloses, as shown in figure 10, the output signals from said first switching signal input means (CPU 143) are in effect multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote command generating means (manual range setting unit 162). However, Iguchi does not teach or suggest multiplexing output signals generated from the manual range setting unit 162 with remote command control signals output from the first remote command generating means as recited in amended Claim 5. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 5 is not anticipated by Iguchi and requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 5.

With respect to amended Claims 6 and 7, Applicant notes that these amendments are supported by the original disclosure. Applicant submits that Iguchi fails to disclose that signals associated with automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands output from the said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with signals associated with speed control and positional control of the focus lens output from said second switching input means to generate multiplex signals, as recited in amended Claim 6. Furthermore, Iguchi fails to disclose that signals associated with automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands output from the said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said second switching input means to generate multiplex signals, as recited in amended Claim 7. At least for these reasons, Applicant is of the opinion that amended Claims 6 and 7 are allowable.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully submits that the New Claims 20-23 are supported by the original disclosure. As to New Claims 20 and 21, Applicant incorporates its prior arguments with respect to Claims 4 and 5. At least for this reason, Applicant is of the opinion that New Claims 20-23 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in

connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 502,456. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (949) 932-3316.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Walter T. Kim/

Date

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